

leader without forgetting his humble origins. He did not look at the world in terms of color or creed but appreciated and celebrated all cultures while speaking five languages with near fluency. His activism was motivated by his deep beliefs in the dignity of humanity and the tenets of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ted Velez will be remembered as a hero not only in El Barrio but also in the great City of New York. His presence and noble determination will be sorely missed. Mr. Velez is survived by his wife Linda, son Jon, daughter Judie, two brothers and two grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING FATHER JOHN
TERRY ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT THE CATHOLIC YOUTH CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Very Reverend John Terry, who will celebrate his 25th year as director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, tonight.

Father Terry is a Scranton native who attended St. Michael's elementary school in Jessup. He went on to Scranton Preparatory High School, where he was influenced by the Jesuit priests who taught him. It was at a school retreat in Easton, Pennsylvania, that he first expressed his interest in the priesthood. He credits Father Burner, SJ, Father John Dugan, SJ and Scholastic Jesuit Robert Waldman for helping him explore the priesthood as a vocation.

Father Terry studied different religious communities and their missions, but realized he felt the call to do parish work in the Scranton Diocese. Upon his high school graduation in 1967, Father Terry applied to the Diocese of Scranton. He met with Monsignor Thomas Horan, director of the Saint Pius X Seminary.

Father Terry was accepted as a pre-seminarian and began studies at the University of Scranton. After two years at the University, Father Terry continued on at Saint Pius X. Father Terry recalls that when he was assigned to his room, he knelt and prayed, saying "Oh God, if this is your will, help me."

Monsignor Andrew McGowan was in charge at the Seminary, assisted by Father Banish, Father Kelly, Father Bergamo, Father Louis and Father Walsh.

In the Spring of 1971, Father Terry was sent to Our Lady of Angels Theological Seminary in Albany, New York. Halfway during his second semester, the Seminary closed because of budgetary shortfalls. Father Terry then went on to St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

In May 1974, Father Terry was ordained as a deacon and assigned to a small community in Ellicottville, New York—an assignment that helped him understand what parish life really meant. Father Terry was then assigned to the Diocese of Buffalo Seminary in East Aurora, New York. In that year, Father Terry spent a good deal of time in the Diocese of Scranton.

Bishop J. Carroll McCormack of Scranton assigned Father Terry as a deacon to St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception

in Wilkes-Barre. He served with Monsignor Joseph Madden as pastor and mentor.

Father Terry was ordained on May 2, 1975 by Bishop McCormack in the Diocese of Scranton. He was assigned to St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre. During this time, Father Terry's mother was diagnosed with cancer. She died a few months after her son was ordained, and the parishioners at St. Mary's helped Father Terry during this tragic time. Father Terry also began working with children, which was a great boost for his morale.

In 1979, Monsignor John Dougherty, Chancellor of the Diocese, asked Father Terry to become director of the Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre and to serve as an assistant at St. Patrick's Parish in Wilkes-Barre. Working with young people and youth programs was a dream come true for Father Terry.

Father Terry also worked with GAR High School's football program, and was named "Our Angel in the Backfield" by the students he coached. After three years at St. Patrick's, he went to Holy Savior/St. Christopher Churches.

Father Terry enjoyed devoting his time and energy to working with troubled youth and helping to solve their problems. The assignment at the CYC also afforded Father Terry the opportunity to work with Tony English, Jr., executive director of the CYC. The success of the CYC is a result of the wonderful working relationship between the two.

In December 1990, Father Terry was assigned on a temporary basis to Sugar Notch to minister to the Churches of Saints Peter and Paul and St. Charles Borromeo until Father Tom Hudak returned from the Persian Gulf. In 1992, Father Terry was named Pastor of all the churches in Sugar Notch, including Holy Family.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent a man who has devoted his life to making the lives of others, especially young people, better. Please join me in congratulating Father Terry today on 25 years of service.

FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ GABRIEL
RAMÓN CASTILLO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ramón Castillo is a teacher by training. As a teacher, he was interested in helping to instruct and inform his impressionable students. After learning about the propaganda mandated by the regime, he was unable to continue with the charade of manipulating young minds with lies instead of truth. Because of his strong belief in truth and democracy, Mr. Ramón Castillo eventually became the director of the Independent Culture and Democracy Institute. He also began to work as an independent journalist, chronicling the reality of deprivation and misery that truthfully characterizes the totalitarian regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Ramón Castillo was repeatedly subjected to persecution and harassment by the regime from the beginning of his involvement in the

movement to peacefully create a free and democratic Cuba. On March 19, 2003, Mr. Ramón Castillo was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial he was sentenced to 20 years in the tyrant's sub human gulag.

It is unconscionable that any man can be sentenced to 20 years in the grotesquely inhuman quarters of Castro's gulag for a belief in democracy. Mr. Ramón Castillo is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that Mr. Ramón Castillo is languishing in the totalitarian gulag 90 miles from our shore simply because he believes in freedom and democracy. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of José Gabriel Ramón Castillo, and every prisoner of conscience suffering under the nightmare called the Castro regime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 450, I was present, but the voting machine did not record me. I should have been recorded as a "yes."

THANKS TO JOE ZAWADSKI

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, every now and then nice things happen to those in need. This is just what happened to the students at Helms Middle School after Joe Zawadski visited the school and saw the terrible conditions that existed. Joe Zawadski made a command decision that the students deserved better and he and his company, Signature Properties, were going to do something about it.

With the support of Jim Ghielmetti, the owner of Signatures Properties, Helms was able to make major improvements to its safety, sanitation and playing field conditions. What a wonderful example for those who want to help improve the educational environment in our schools.

Thanks to Joe Zawadski and Signature Properties, the students at Helms Middle School will start the year in a safer and brighter learning environment. Thank you Joe Zawadski.

Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a news story and editorial from the Contra Costa Times.

PICK UP A PAINT BRUSH

Signature Properties Vice President Joe Zwidski usually is responsible for developing the foundation of neighborhoods, building things from the ground up. Recently, however, he stepped in to help in the maintenance of a school in San Pablo, one of the